

Claims

1. A configurable formatting system for generating a desired
5 representation of an expression within a word list, said system comprising:
 - (a) a dictionary database for storing at least one category, said category containing at least one word and at least one translation rule;
 - (b) a configuration file coupled to the dictionary database containing at
10 least one variant to the contents of at least one category of the dictionary database, said variant to the contents of at least one category being used to overwrite the contents of said at least one category within said dictionary database;
 - (c) a working list module coupled to the dictionary database for reading
15 a word from the word list and identifying whether a word is associated with the expression by searching the categories of said dictionary database for said word, said working list module being adapted to:
 - (i) insert the word into a working list if the word is associated
with the expression;
 - (ii) process the word list when the word is associated with the
20 termination of the expression; and
 - (d) a formatting module coupled to the working list module for processing the words from the working list and generating the desired representation of the expression from the working list.
- 25 2. The system of claim 1, wherein working list module utilizes the categories of said dictionary database to identify whether a word is associated with the expression.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein working list module is adapted to be either in a NoCheck state or in a WordInNumber state according to the following:

- 5 (i) when word list is empty, working list module is in a NoCheck state;
- (ii) working list module enters into a WordInNumber state when the word being read is associated with the expression; and
- 10 (iii) working list module returns to the NoCheck state when the word being read is associated with the termination of the expression.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein said working list module is further adapted to determine whether a word is associated with the expression, by:

- 15 (iv) determining whether the working list module is in the WordInNumber state;
- (v) determining whether the working list module is in the NoCheck state and the word is a numeral; and
- (vi) if either (iv) or (v) is true then determining that the word is associated with the expression.

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5. The system of claim 1, wherein the word is associated with the termination of an expression when the word is a punctuation character.

25 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the word is associated with the termination of an expression when the word is not present within any of the categories of the dictionary database.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein said formatting module is adapted to look up the category associated with a word within the dictionary database.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said formatting module formats the word according to the translation rule associated with the category associated with the word.

5 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the category for the word is used to format the word in association with another word within working list.

10. A configurable formatting method for generating a representation of an expression within a recognized word list, said method comprising:

- 10 (a) storing at least one category in a dictionary database, said category containing at least one word and at least one translation rule;
- b) storing at least one variant to the contents of at least one category of the dictionary database in a configuration file and using the contents of at least one category to overwrite the contents of said at
- 15 least one category within said dictionary database;
- (c) reading a word from the word list and identifying whether the word is associated with the expression by searching the categories of said dictionary database for said word;
- (d) inserting the word into a working list if the word is associated
- 20 with the expression;
- (e) processing the word list when a word is associated with the termination of the expression; and
- (f) formatting the words from the working list and generating the desired representation of the expression from the working list.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the categories of said dictionary database are used to identify whether a word is associated with the expression.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein (c) further comprises moving between a NoCheck state or in a WordInNumber state according to the following:

- (i) when word list is empty, being in a NoCheck state;
- (ii) entering into a WordInNumber state when the word being read is associated with the expression; and
- (iii) returning to the NoCheck state when the word being read is associated with the termination of the expression.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein (c) further comprises:

- (iv) determining whether the working list module is in the WordinNumber state;
- (v) determining whether the working list module is in the NoCheck state and the word is a numeral; and
- (vi) if either (iv) or (v) is true then determining that the word is associated with the expression.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the word is associated with the termination of an expression when the word is a punctuation character.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the word is associated with the termination of an expression when the word is not present within any of the categories of the dictionary database.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein (f) further comprises looking up the category associated with a word within the dictionary database.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the category associated with the word is used to format the word in association with another word within working list.